

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: April 26, 1951

FROM: SAC, OMAHA

SUBJECT: KENNETH ALLEN KITTS, was., et. al.,  
BANK ROBBERY; BURGLARY;  
ITSP; E AND R;  
ITSMV; HARBORING  
(Bufile 91-5787)

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As reflected in reports from this Division, considerable assistance has been received in the KITTS investigation from [redacted]

[redacted] to the KITTS residence, 3313 Turner Boulevard, [redacted] was in an advantageous position to inform this office on a very intelligent and highly confidential basis of all activity taking place at the rear, and most used entrance of the KITTS' residence. She has furnished information fully and almost on a daily basis since August 10, 1949 when she was first contacted by SA ELMER L. JACOBSEN of this Office.

[redacted] has given considerable portion of her time to these observations, recording them in letters and also reporting, telephonically, all information of emergency nature. This information greatly facilitated investigation of KITTS through the identification of his associates and through revealing the coincidence between KITTS leaving Omaha and the commission of a bank burglary or robbery violation. [redacted] continues to report on activity at the KITTS residence although KITTS is presently serving time at the State Penitentiary at Lincoln, Nebraska, which sentence is to be followed by a federal incarceration on the 30 year sentence received for the Laurens, Iowa bank burglary. One of the subjects of the current Bureau investigation who visits [redacted] is BENNIE BARONE, FBI # 500634.

Though she has rendered very valuable information, [redacted] has invariably refused payment for this confidential service, except for expenditures in connection with this service, such as postage.

Without the assistance of [redacted] it probably would not have been possible to develop the information which permitted the "breaking down" of KITTS' accomplices, PASQUALE JOSEPH BELCASTRO and [redacted] who testified for the government.

In view of [redacted] assistance to this office and in view of the fact that she would not accept payment for these services, it is suggested that a letter of commendation from the Director be sent to her in a plain envelope, registered mail. This means of transmission is suggested due to the fact that [redacted] has kept her connection with this office completely confidential and due to the fact that [redacted] still resides at [redacted]

ELJ:BW  
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*Very appropriate*  
*DVS*

RECORDED - 35  
INDEXED - 35  
EX-67

91-5787-191  
APR 30 1951  
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*4-23-51*

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*5-7-51*

Case Originated at OMAHA

OM File No. 91-620

Report Made At:

Date

Period

Report Made By:

OMAHA, NEBRASKA

4/24/51

4/7-17/51

EDWARD A. DONAHOE

/pm

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Title: BENNIE BARONE, was., Joe Manzio, Bennie Brown, Bernard Barone, Robert Barrett; KENNETH ALLEN KITTS, was., Kenneth Allen Kitts, Kenneth Fisher, Kenneth Russell, Jack Allen Hinnings, Kenny, C. E. Martin, G. W. Martin, R. Martin, Phil Barnes, A. J. Smith, F. W. Morris; YANCY DOUGLAS HARDY, was. Yancey Douglas Hardy, Thomas C. Lloyd, Loyd Douglas Hardy, Lloyd Douglas, Douglas Hardy, Ding; PASQUALE JOSEPH BELCASTRO, was., Pasquale Joseph Belcastra, Frank Mansi. Mr. Martin. Pat. [REDACTED]

Character:

BANK ROBBERY - BURGLARY;  
MISPRISION OF FELONY;  
ACCESSORY AFTER THE FACT

Corsi; LAURENS STATE BANK, Laurens, Iowa. 11/3/50

#### PROSECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT

The following Prosecutive Summary Report is being prepared for the assistance of the United States Attorney in presenting violation by BENNIE BARONE to the Federal Grand Jury and subsequent trial action.

PROCESSING.

#### NARRATIVE OF OFFENSE

APR 1 1951

The Laurens State Bank, Laurens, Iowa, possessing Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Certificate No. 15320, issued December 16, 1935, was burglarized during the early morning hours of November 3, 1950, by KENNETH ALLEN KITTS, YANCY DOUGLAS HARDY and PASQUALE JOSEPH BELCASTRO. They obtained \$4,486.00 from the bank in silver, \$17,450.00 in American Express Travelers Cheques, and \$8,020.00 in Bank of America, San Francisco, Travelers Cheques. Subjects broke open 104 safe deposit boxes and, upon finding some safe deposit keys in the bank, opened an additional 24 safe deposit boxes. The amount obtained from these safe deposit boxes is estimated at \$8,290.00.

Following the burglary of the Laurens State Bank, KITTS, BELCASTRO and HARDY, still using BELCASTRO's 1950 Nash, proceeded to the Turin Inn, Sioux City, Iowa, operated by [REDACTED]. The \$4,486.00 in silver was carried by the subjects in a bushel basket and also in bank money bags into the Turin Inn, where they met [REDACTED] and the loot was apparently split evenly among

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SAC

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Copies:

2-Bureau (91-5787)

2-USA, Omaha

4-Omaha

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Justice

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KITTS, HARDY and BELCASTRO, and [ ] was paid \$800.00 for fingering the burglary. KITTS retained possession of all of the Bank of America and American Express Company Travelers Cheques, totaling \$25,470.00, because of his stated belief that it was not safe to pass them.

[ ] then telephonically contacted BENNIE BARONE at the Last Chance Tavern, Council Bluffs, Iowa, and asked him if he would handle about \$3,000.00 in silver money to exchange it for currency and BARONE agreed to do so. KITTS, HARDY and BELCASTRO then left the Turin Inn about 8:00 A.M. November 3, 1950 and went directly from Sioux City, Iowa, to Omaha, Nebraska in BELCASTRO's Nash. KITTS was dropped off at the rear door of his residence at 3313 Turner Boulevard, Omaha, and BELCASTRO and HARDY then drove to BARONE's residence, 1314 South 24th Street, Omaha. BELCASTRO ascertained that BARONE was at home alone and then he and HARDY carried \$3,100.00 in silver from the trunk of BELCASTRO's car into BARONE's house, this being part of the loot obtained in the Laurens State Bank burglary and being the shares of both BELCASTRO and HARDY. The silver was carried in three canvas bags which also had been obtained from the Laurens State Bank. BARONE counted out the silver on the dining room table and stated he would not be able to get all of the currency for all of the silver that day but would get half of it that afternoon and the remainder on the following Monday, November 6, 1950. HARDY had arranged to leave Omaha for Tyler, Texas, on the afternoon of November 3, 1950, so BELCASTRO agreed to give HARDY \$1,200.00 in currency for HARDY's share of the silver. The currency given HARDY by BELCASTRO was part of BELCASTRO's share of the currency taken from the safe deposit boxes in the Laurens State Bank. BARONE stated this arrangement was agreeable and that he would give the currency for the entire \$3,100.00 in silver to BELCASTRO. On the afternoon of November 3, 1950, BARONE gave BELCASTRO \$1,500.00 in currency in old bills, mostly in \$20.00 denominations.

On Monday, November 6, 1950, BARONE met BELCASTRO in the Harney Drug Store, 17th and Harney Streets, Omaha, Nebraska, at which time BARONE gave him another \$1,500.00 in currency in old bills, mostly in \$20.00 denominations. This \$1,500.00 in currency was given to BELCASTRO after they left the Harney Drug Store and as they were driving in BARONE's car to a service station at 24th and Pierce Streets, Omaha. Upon arriving at this service station, BELCASTRO gave BARONE \$200.00 for exchanging the silver into currency. Thereafter [ ], BARONE's partner in the Last Chance Tavern, Council Bluffs, Iowa, called BARONE at the oil station and BARONE was heard to state, "I just got \$200.00 from him but I will ask him for \$100.00 for you." Immediately thereafter BELCASTRO gave BARONE \$100.00, making a

total of \$300.00 for his services. Before leaving the station, [redacted] [redacted] drove up in his automobile and BARONE gave him his share of the money as they were standing there.

After leaving BARONE's residence on the morning of November 3, 1950, BELCASTRO took HARDY to the Rome Hotel and on the afternoon of November 3, HARDY flew on Midcontinent Airlines from Omaha to Tyler, Texas, arriving there that evening about 9:39 P.M.

Later, BELCASTRO, HARDY and [redacted] believing that KITTS was holding out on them and intended to take all of the Travelers Cheques for himself, convinced him that they had a buyer for all of the Travelers Cheques in Houston, Texas, and that they could realize about 50 per cent of their face value. Under this stipulation, KITTS turned the Cheques over to BELCASTRO, who, instead of going to Texas, by pre-arrangement went to New York City, where he met HARDY and [redacted] together with DEAN and [redacted] ROWLEY at the Picadilly Hotel and split among that group the major part of the Travelers Cheques stolen in instant burglary. The group then started passing these Cheques in New York City under aliases, subject HARDY using the name [redacted]

[redacted] DEAN ROBERT ROWLEY, and [redacted] were apprehended by the St. Louis, Missouri Police Department, November 27, 1950, in possession of \$8,970.00 in American Express Company Travelers Cheques, and \$3,600.00 in Bank of America Travelers Cheques.

[redacted] in a signed statement admitted he fingered with Laurens State Bank burglary for KITTS and that KITTS, together with HARDY and BELCASTRO, came to his night club, the Turin Inn, Sioux City, Iowa, following the burglary on November 3, 1950, to split the loot, paying him \$800.00. HARDY was apprehended December 2, 1950 at Tyler, Texas.

BELCASTRO was apprehended at Chicago, Illinois, December 4, 1950, and in a signed statement, admitted the burglary of the Laurens, Iowa State Bank with KITTS and HARDY and the subsequent transportation of the stolen silver and Travelers Cheques from Laurens, Iowa, to Omaha. He later orally admitted the transportation of \$22,100.00 of these stolen Travelers Cheques from Omaha to New York City, where he divided them among HARDY, [redacted] and DEAN ROWLEY, [redacted] and himself.

HARDY's wife, MILDRED WRIGHT HARDY, and his [REDACTED] [REDACTED] were arrested at Tyler, Texas, December 5, 1950, and charged with passing instant stolen Travelers Cheques in New York City.

KITTS was arrested at Omaha, Nebraska, December 6, 1950, and while being held in the Linn County Jail, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, following his indictment for the Laurens State Bank burglary, escaped from jail and was again arrested at Omaha, Nebraska, on February 8, 1951.

#### PROSECUTIVE ACTION

An authorized complaint was filed January 23, 1951 by SA EDWARD A. DONAHOE before United States Commissioner, M. O. CUNNINGHAM, Omaha, Nebraska, charging BARONE with violation of Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 2113o in that he received silver money taken as loot in the burglary of the Laurens State Bank, Laurens, Iowa, and converted it into currency, knowing same to have been stolen. Investigative efforts to locate BARONE in Omaha at his residence, 1314 South 24th Street, his place of business, the Last Chance Tavern, Council Bluffs, Iowa, and among known associates in Omaha were negative. However, he was surrendered to United States Commissioner, M. O. CUNNINGHAM, at Omaha on January 24, 1951 by his attorney, WARREN C. SCHREMPF, and released the same day on \$5,000.00 bond. At a hearing held February 21 and 23, 1951, BARONE was ordered held for the Federal Grand Jury, bond continued in the amount of \$5,000.00 and BARONE continued at liberty pending presentment to Federal Grand Jury.

Subjects' KENNETH ALLEN KITTS and YANCY DOUGLAS HARDY were found guilty by a Petit Jury, United States District Court, Mason City, Iowa, March 22, 1951 on all three counts of an indictment, charging them in Count I with entering Laurens State Bank with felonious intent; Count II, taking and carrying away bank funds; Count III, interstate transportation of stolen travelers cheques. KITTS sentenced March 22, 1951 by United States District Judge to 20 years custody Attorney General on Count I; 10 years on Count II, to run concurrently; 10 years on Count III, to run consecutively; actual sentence 30 years. Also on March 22, 1951, in open court, KITTS entered plea of guilty to United States Attorney's information, charging escape from Linn County Jail, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, January 22, 1951; KITTS sentenced same date by United States District Judge to 5 years custody Attorney General to run concurrently with sentence in Count I of indictment. Execution of sentence stayed to March 29, 1951 to determine whether Attorney General would defer to State of Nebraska

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in having KITTS first serve 12-year sentence imposed under Nebraska Habitual Criminal Statute. On March 28, 1951, KITTS delivered by United States Marshal, Sioux City, Iowa, to Nebraska State Penitentiary, Lincoln, Nebraska, to serve 12-year State sentence. Detainer filed at Nebraska State Penitentiary by United States Marshal, Omaha, April 10, 1951.

YANCY DOUGLAS HARDY sentenced March 22, 1951 by United States District Judge, Mason City, Iowa, to 20 years custody Attorney General on Count I of indictment; 10 years on Count II; and 10 years on Count III, to run concurrently with Count I; actual sentence, 20 years.

PASQUALE JOSEPH BELCASTRO sentenced March 30, 1951 by United States District Judge at Sioux City, Iowa, to 10 years custody Attorney General on each of four counts of information, all sentences to run concurrently. Information in two counts charged bank burglary and in two counts charged violation of the interstate transportation of stolen property statute.

[redacted] sentenced March 30, 1951 by United States District Judge, Sioux City, Iowa, to five years custody Attorney General on United States Attorney's information, charging receiving stolen bank funds.

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The statute of limitation began to operate on November 6, 1950.

WITNESSES

[redacted]

Laurens, Iowa

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Upon being served with a subpoena duces tecum, can produce [redacted]

[redacted]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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BELCASTRO, PASQUALE JOSEPH  
U. S. Penitentiary  
Terre Haute, Indiana

Will testify that he was born March 22, 1918, Omaha, Nebraska to Mr.  
and Mrs. PETER (CARMELA) BELCASTRO; his wife, [REDACTED]  
and two children, [REDACTED] reside  
at [REDACTED]

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Will testify that he met KENNETH ALLEN KITTS of Omaha, Nebraska, several  
years ago and became well acquainted with him about one year ago and  
since then a close acquaintanceship developed and he frequently visited  
at his residence.

He has known BENNIE BARONE since he was a boy. BARONE presently operates  
with [REDACTED] the Last Chance Tavern, 3760 West Broadway,  
telephone Council Bluffs 9840, Council Bluffs, Iowa. He met YANCY  
DOUGLAS HARDY whom he knew as DOUG HARDY during the very first part of  
October, 1950. He was introduced to HARDY by KITTS at the Rocket

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Recreation, a billiard parlor and bar, 16th and Farnam Streets, Omaha, Nebraska.

One afternoon in the latter part of October, 1950, BELCASTRO was having his car serviced at the service station of [redacted] who operates a Texaco Gas Station at 24th and Pierce Streets, Omaha, Nebraska. This car which BELCASTRO owned at that time was a 1950 Nash, four door sedan, color, two tone gray, the top being a gun-metal gray and the bottom a very light gray. While his car was being serviced, KENNETH ALLEN KITTS and BENNIE BARONE happened to stop at this same service station and met BELCASTRO in the office. BARONE turned and walked toward the grease rack and BELCASTRO was standing near a Coca Cola machine in the office when KITTS said to him in a low voice "I've got a score and I want you to go up and look at it." KITTS then got out an Iowa road map and circled the town of Laurens, Iowa on the map with a pencil. He pointed out two approaches to it, one being by way of Sioux City, Iowa, and the other by U. S. Highway #71 which approaches Laurens from the East. KITTS suggested that BELCASTRO case the bank, pointing out that he had heard that one of the safe deposit boxes contained a considerable amount of money. KITTS did not say where he had heard this and although this conversation took place in the presence of BARONE, KITTS' voice was not loud enough for BARONE to hear from the position where he was standing by the grease rack.

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Before the Laurens bank burglary, BELCASTRO had told BARONE about the Kaylor, South Dakota bank burglary which occurred September 7, 1950 and about the robbery of a bank at Garretson, South Dakota which occurred October 4, 1950. BELCASTRO can not recall the exact conversation or where it took place but recalled that on one occasion that BARONE had made the statement to him that while the Garretson, South Dakota bank was being robbed that KITTS had to hit some guy on the head with a pistol. BELCASTRO told BARONE that KITTS had nothing to do with hitting anyone and that KITTS was downstairs when that took place and that it was DOUG HARDY who had hit the fellow. (This conversation refers to the robbery of the Garretson, South Dakota bank, at which time KITTS, HARDY and BELCASTRO entered the home of the cashier of the bank, forced the cashier to give them the combination of the bank vault and then tied the cashier and his wife with wire. The cashier when he first refused to give the combination was hit on the head by HARDY with a revolver. Later when they were unable to open the bank vault with the combination they forced the cashier of the bank to accompany them to the bank where they ordered him to open the vault door which he did.)



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BELCASTRO also recalled that on another occasion prior to the Laurens State Bank burglary, he told BARONE that he, KITTS, and HARDY "went through a wall at the Kaylor, South Dakota bank."

On or about October 31, 1950, which was the day following the day that KITTS had pointed out the City of Laurens, Iowa to BELCASTRO on a map, BELCASTRO personally went to Laurens, Iowa in his Nash automobile and cased the Laurens State Bank, making his observations while cashing a \$100.00 bill therein. At that time he noticed that there were three or four ladies working in the bank besides the man who changed the bill. Thereafter he went to a gas station and talked to the operator, asking him if they still had the same night policeman that they had a few weeks back. The service station operator told BELCASTRO that they did not inasmuch as he had suffered a heart attack recently. He stated that they had a new night watchman who had recently caught several juvenile burglars. BELCASTRO then returned to Omaha in his Nash and called KITTS by phone at Frank Panos Tavern, this was about 9:00 P.M. and he briefly discussed the layout of the bank with KITTS, after which he told him to contact him later that night. BELCASTRO met KITTS about midnight at Frank Panos Tavern and told him more completely about the setup of the bank.

About a night or two later, HARDY came in from Tyler, Texas by airplane and HARDY, KITTS and BELCASTRO left for Laurens, Iowa, between 7:30 and 8:00 P.M. that evening using BELCASTRO's Nash. They arrived in Laurens, Iowa about midnight.

After briefly looking over the town of Laurens, Iowa, they parked their car about four or five blocks from the bank on a dark side street in front of a house. While KITTS and HARDY left to look the bank area over BELCASTRO waited in the car. A few minutes later they returned to advise BELCASTRO that they had spotted the car of the night watchman in front of the Power plant about a half block away from the bank. The three then took KITTS' tools from the trunk of BELCASTRO's car which consisted of chisels, punches, vice-grip pliers, wire cutters, two crowbars and an 18 lb. sledge hammer. They carried the tools to the bank lot area, entering it from the rear or West. KITTS entered the bank through the rear South window through the use of a large screwdriver and then opened the door on the North side of the bank towards the rear and came through it to see if HARDY and BELCASTRO had noted anyone

gave KITTS, HARDY and BELCASTRO about \$1,200.00 each and [ ] about \$800.00. While driving from Laurens, Iowa to Sioux City, Iowa, KITTS, HARDY and BELCASTRO had divided the currency taken in the burglary of the safe deposit boxes in the Laurens State Bank.

After the division of the silver, KITTS stated that he could get rid of the silver for all of them but that it would cost quite a bit. The others thought it unreasonable to give up any substantial part of the silver in exchange for currency and so KITTS told them to each get rid of his own. At this [ ] called BENNY BARONE by phone at the Last Change Tavern in Council Bluffs, and arranged for BARONE to cash out HARDY's, [ ] and BELCASTRO's silver. When [ ] came from the phone to advise BELCASTRO that he, BELCASTRO, was to take the three shares of silver amounting to \$3,100.00 to BARONE's residence in Omaha, Nebraska, BELCASTRO was not certain this was true so he also talked to BARONE, who stated that he would take the silver.

KITTS, HARDY and BELCASTRO then left the Turin Inn about 8:00 A.M. November 3, 1950 and drove in BELCASTRO's Nash directly from Sioux City to Omaha via U. S. Highway 75 through Council Bluffs, Iowa. BELCASTRO dropped KITTS off at the rear door of his residence at 3313 Turner Boulevard, Omaha, Nebraska, and KITTS had his portion of the silver money in his suitcase which made it very heavy and gave him difficulty in getting it out of the car and into the house. HARDY and BELCASTRO then drove to see BENNIE BARONE at his residence, 1314 South 24th Street, Omaha, Nebraska. HARDY and BELCASTRO walked up to BARONE's residence, this being about 9:30 or 10:00 A.M. and asked BARONE, "Are you home alone." BARONE replied, "Yes" and asked "Do you have the money with you." BELCASTRO stated "Yes, it is in the trunk of the car." BARONE then said "I won't be able to get the currency until this afternoon," and BELCASTRO replied "that will be all right." HARDY then said that he would like to get home as soon as possible and so BELCASTRO told him in the presence of BARONE that he would pay HARDY for his share of the silver in currency and would then take all of the currency obtained by BARONE in exchanging the silver. BARONE said, "Yeah, that will work out all right that way," and then said "Bring the money in." HARDY and BELCASTRO then went to the automobile and took the silver from the trunk, it still being contained in three white canvas bags which had large black printing thereon. BELCASTRO cannot recall the exact printing on the bags or what it said.

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BELCASTRO and HARDY carried the silver into the BARONES' residence and poured the cash out on the dining room table, and all three of them counted it. Before starting to count the money BARONE asked "How much have you got there," and BELCASTRO told him \$3,100.00, to which BARONE said, "We will count it to make sure." The total amounted to \$3,100.00. BELCASTRO then gave HARDY between \$1,100.00 and \$1,200.00 in currency for his share and drove him to the Rome Hotel.

Shortly after noon on November 3, 1950, BELCASTRO drove into [redacted] service station at 24th and Pierce Streets, to have his car washed and while standing there, BARONE drove in in his Oldsmobile. BELCASTRO and BARONE went inside the oil station office and BARONE gave him \$1,500.00 in currency stating "here's your money." The currency was old bills and mostly in \$20.00 denominations. BARONE further stated "you will get the other \$1,500.00 tomorrow or Monday." "Don't worry it is as good as gold."

On Monday November 6, 1950, BELCASTRO drove his car again to [redacted] service station, left it there to be serviced and went downtown to the Harney Drug Store, 17th and Harney Streets, Omaha, which is managed by [redacted]. While BELCASTRO was there BARONE walked in and started talking to [redacted]. BARONE and the waitress. BARONE then pulled out a bundle of money and told [redacted] that BELCASTRO had made a bet on [redacted] for Sheriff. BARONE stated BELCASTRO had bet \$2,000.00, then took the money and ruffled it at his ear and said "Whoops - one short." BARONE and BELCASTRO then got into BARONE's car and BARONE gave him the other \$1,500.00 in currency as they drove to [redacted] oil station, 24th and Pierce Streets, Omaha. This was in used currency and all in \$20.00 denominations. On the way to the service station, BARONE asked BELCASTRO to loan him \$200.00, stating he had asked KITTS for the same loan but KITTS said he had paid out quite a bit and did not have it. After BARONE and BELCASTRO had reached [redacted] oil station, [redacted] drove in the station. BARONE asked BELCASTRO for the \$1,500.00 currency, stating he wanted to have some fun with [redacted] who was campaigning for [redacted] for Sheriff. BARONE took the \$1,500.00 and again ruffled it past his ear and said "Whoops, one short." BARONE then told [redacted] that BELCASTRO had bet \$2,000.00 on [redacted] for Sheriff and received four or five to one odds. BARONE then stated that [redacted] was a cinch to win. After [redacted] left the service station, [redacted] called and wanted to know what BARONE and BELCASTRO were doing. They both talked to [redacted] and told him they were both kidding [redacted]. Right after

this phone call [ ] telephoned BARONE at this oil station and BELCASTRO heard BARONE say, "Wait, he is right here now and I'll ask him. I just got \$200.00 from him but I'll ask him for \$100.00 for you." BARONE turned and asked BELCASTRO if he could let him have \$100.00 for [ ] to which BELCASTRO agreed. BELCASTRO gave BARONE \$300.00 and had hardly counted it out when [ ] drove into this oil station in his Cadillac. BARONE said to [ ] "did you think he was going to get away." BARONE and [ ] stood by the door and BELCASTRO saw BARONE give [ ] some of the money he had just given him. As [ ] went out the door he said, "I will go right down and make a payment on my car, as I am four or five days late. My brother was supposed to have given me the money but he didn't show up."

About a week later [ ] came to Omaha and rented a suite of rooms at the Paxton Hotel believed to be number 314 or 414. He kept the suite for about three or four days and then checked into a single room at the hotel. [ ] remained at the hotel for about one week and while there [ ] BARONE, KITTS and BELCASTRO were in the suite together on several occasions and separately. While in this suite on one occasion BARONE, [ ] and BELCASTRO had a discussion about KITTS holding out on the Laurens Bank loot from HARDY and BELCASTRO. On one of these occasions when such a discussion was had, BELCASTRO had with him a Sioux City, Iowa newspaper which carried an article about the Laurens burglary which was discussed by BARONE, [ ] and BELCASTRO. BARONE said "KITTS has not only knocked down on the cash but figures on beating you guys on the cheques." BELCASTRO told [ ] he was going to show KITTS the article that appeared in the Sioux City, Iowa newspaper where it was reported that \$38,000.00 was missing. BARONE said "He will give you some excuse about it. What the hell, you guys should figure out where the money went because everybody knows he is a hold-out artist. Anyway you can start checking on all the money he is spending and he is stretching his share pretty good. Just the other night he was over to my place and had a pretty good crowd with him and he paid all the bills and I hear he is buying [ ] gowns and has opened a charge account for her at the Aquila Court. Now KITTS is talking about buying [ ] a \$1,000.00 fur coat. If you figure all these prices up, that proves he did a good job of stretching his share." BARONE also said "you guys are crazy if you let him keep those travelers cheques." BARONE, [ ] and BELCASTRO then entered into a discussion as to how to get the cheques back from KITTS. However, the exact conversation is not recalled by BELCASTRO.

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One day while [ ] was staying in the suite at the Paxton Hotel, BELCASTRO showed KITTS the clipping from the Sioux City paper. BARONE, KITTS, [ ] and BELCASTRO were present. BELCASTRO told KITTS that by the account in the paper there is over \$20,000.00 in cash missing. KITTS said "It looks like I got \_\_\_\_." [ ] asked KITTS about bringing the travelers cheques down to the hotel and KITTS made a statement to the effect that he had asked the Warden to let him in the penitentiary if he wanted to go there and KITTS then left the hotel room. BARONE then said "It's funny KITTS doesn't trust you guys with the cheques but still he took PAT with him and got the score for you, [ ] That shows right there he has the intention of beating you guys out of them checks." [ ] replied "He is going to beat no one out of the cheques. We will wind up getting them." BELCASTRO recalls that BARONE was in and out of the hotel all the time that [ ] had the room at the Paxton and also recalls that one day BARONE said to BELCASTRO and [ ] "You caught him taking two \$100.00 bills only he out-smarted you by putting them back. What you guys should have done was have everybody search each other at the Turin Inn when you split up the money."

[ ]  
U. S. Penitentiary  
Terre Haute, Indiana

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[ ] and has lived there all of his life. His [ ] and his [ ] reside at [ ] About December 1949, he became acquainted with KENNETH ALLEN KITTS of Omaha, Nebraska, when the latter was at Sioux City, Iowa. Since the time of that meeting he has associated with him on an irregular basis at Omaha and Sioux City and during this time has visited with KITTS at his residence, 3313 Turner Boulevard, Omaha, Nebraska. During the summer 1950, [ ] and KITTS were at Lake Okoboji, Iowa. During this time [ ] heard that a woman had a large amount of money in a safe deposit box in the Laurens State Bank, Laurens, Iowa. [ ] did not mention this information at that time but later while attending the 1950 World Series in New York City, he mentioned it to KITTS while they attended one of the games and stated that it would be a good bank to knock off. (World Series of 1950 was held on October 4, 5, 6, and 7, 1950. Sometime thereafter and prior to the time the Laurens Bank was burglarized, November 3, 1950, KITTS and BELCASTRO, who was also known to [ ] as PAT, appeared at the Turin Inn which is operated by [ ] parents and where [ ] was employed prior to his incarceration at the U. S. Penitentiary, Terre Haute, Indiana. On this occasion they asked [ ] to go along with them on a trip which would

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involve the burglary of the Laurens State Bank and the rifling of the safe deposit boxes. [ ] refused. On one or two other occasions, KITTS and BELCASTRO also requested him to accompany them and on each occasion he refused.

During the last week or two of October, 1950, KITTS, BELCASTRO and [ ] in the presence of BARONE discussed the possibilities in connection with the anticipated burglary of the Laurens, Iowa bank. [ ] recalled that they were in Omaha, Nebraska, either in a hotel room or riding in one of their cars when this conversation occurred. [ ] recalls that this discussion occurred on two or three occasions and that the discussion was in the presence of BARONE and he heard the conversation.

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On November 3, 1950, about 4:30 or 5:00 A.M., KITTS and BELCASTRO accompanied by a man known to [ ] as LOYD DOUGLAS HARDY met him at the Turin Inn after phoning [ ] at his residence where he was asleep to meet them there. They were driving a four door Ambassador, two tone gray Nash which [ ] knew to be the automobile of PAT BELCASTRO. [ ] took KITTS, HARDY and BELCASTRO through the door at the South side of the building to the East end which leads to the private office. He held the door open while KITTS, HARDY and BELCASTRO carried in three white cloth bags and a bushel basket, all containing silver money, some of it being wrapped. They told [ ] while doing this they had just knocked off the Laurens, Iowa bank.

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Using the adding machine in the rear office of the Turin Inn, [ ] ran a total of about \$4,400.00 of silver money while KITTS, HARDY and BELCASTRO piled up the money on the floor of the office. Of this amount [ ] was given between \$700.00 and \$800.00 in silver for fingering the job for them. KITTS asked [ ] to take all of the silver in exchange for currency and also repaid the \$200.00 he had borrowed from [ ] some time before. [ ] refused to accept all of the silver in order to exchange it for currency but [ ] stated that possibly BENNIE BARONE would make the exchange. To make sure [ ] called BARONE at the Last Chance Tavern in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and asked him if he would handle about \$3,000.00's worth of silver money to exchange it for currency. BARONE stated he would and in the telephone conversation with BARONE, [ ] states that enough was said by them to have them convey to BARONE that he knew the silver was from the previously discussed Laurens, Iowa bank burglary.

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[ ] asked BELCASTRO to take his silver which was approximately \$750.00 and give it to BARONE, and BELCASTRO who had also spoken to BARONE on the telephone stated he was going to have BARONE exchange his share of the silver for currency also.

KITTS, BELCASTRO and HARDY had arrived at the Turin Inn at approximately 6:00 A.M., November 3, 1950 and left there after dividing the silver at about 8:00 A.M.

While KITTS, HARDY and BELCASTRO were at the Turin Inn, KITTS exhibited to [ ] a great quantity of American Express Company and Bank of America travelers cheques, stating that they had obtained them in the burglary of the Laurens bank. KITTS did not count the amount of cheques but it was observed there were several thousand dollars worth of them in different denominations. BELCASTRO and HARDY wanted a share of these checks at that time.

About November 13, 1950 or approximately a week after the burglary, [ ] came to Omaha and rented a suite of rooms at the Paxton Hotel. The accommodations were secured for him by BARONE who had done this on previous occasions and usually made these arrangements by telephone. During the time [ ] occupied this suite, KITTS, BELCASTRO, BARONE and [ ] were there together and separately and in various combinations during this time discussing the Laurens, Iowa, burglary. During this time, [ ] visited KITTS at his residence in Omaha, at which time they discussed the travelers cheques. When asked what the quantity was, KITTS said he did not know but that he would call a fellow holding them for him and find out. He then dialed a telephone number and asked for [ ] who apparently was not in and KITTS asked that [ ] give him a call. A short time thereafter, KITTS received a telephone call while [ ] was present, at which time he gave KITTS the following list and quantity of travelers cheques:

5,000 in \$100.00 bills  
5,500 in \$50.00 bills  
5,000 in \$20.00 bills  
6,600 in \$10.00 bills

to make a total of \$22,100.00. [ ] knew that KITTS associated with a used car dealer in Omaha known as [ ]. However, he was not positive that the call to [ ] was identical with this individual.

Missouri in possession of the stolen travelers cheques, November 27, 1950.

Thereafter, sometime in January about the 17th or 18th while [redacted] was at liberty on bond and employed at the Turin Inn, Sioux City, Iowa, BARONE came to Sioux City, Iowa, stating he had just talked to KITTS who was in jail at Des Moines. BARONE had borrowed about \$2,500. from [redacted] when they were both in Las Vegas, Nevada in May, 1950 and still owes him about \$800.00 or \$900.00. At the time that BARONE came to the Turin Inn, BARONE told [redacted] that he was worried about the fact that he had changed the silver taken from the Laurens bank into currency and that he was surprised that it had not come out yet. BARONE stated that this fact might have been overlooked or forgotten. BARONE also asked if [redacted] would see or have someone see the cashier of the bank at Garretson, South Dakota so that the cashier would not identify KITTS, BELCASTRO or HARDY as having committed the robbery. [redacted] refused to do this. After he told BARONE he would have nothing to do with the cashier at Garretson, South Dakota, BARONE made some statement that if he did not [redacted] might be involved. Because there was no truth to this statement it made [redacted] angry and he told BARONE that he would be involved. BARONE wanted to know how [redacted] would do this without involving others and [redacted] said he said nothing about involving others.

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[redacted]  
Sioux City, Iowa

Upon being served with a subpoena duces tecum, can produce records reflecting that [redacted]

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HARDY, YANCY DOUGLAS  
U. S. Penitentiary  
Leavenworth, Kansas

HARDY is 35 years of age, born May 23, 1915, Center, Alabama. His wife, MILDRED WRIGHT HARDY and three children reside at 1015 North Spring Street, Tyler, Texas.

HARDY can testify that he arrived in Omaha, Nebraska, November 2, 1950, by Midcontinent Airlines and met KENNETH ALLEN KITTS and PASQUALE JOSEPH BELCASTRO and during the evening of November 2, 1950, accompanied them in



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BELCASTRO's Nash automobile from Omaha, Nebraska to Laurens, Iowa for the purpose of burglarizing the Laurens, Iowa bank; that they did burglarize this bank, obtaining \$4,486.00 in silver money and currency from safe deposit boxes \$8,290.00; that they also obtained American Express Company travelers cheques amounting to \$17,450.00 and Bank of America travelers cheques in the amount of \$8,020.00; that after burglarizing the bank they went in BELCASTRO's automobile to the Turin Inn operated by [REDACTED], Sioux City, Iowa, where the silver obtained in the Laurens bank burglary was divided. He thereafter accompanied BELCASTRO in his Nash automobile together with KITTS to Omaha, Nebraska on the morning of November 3, 1950 and let KITTS out at his residence, 3313 Turner Boulevard, Omaha, Nebraska. Thereafter BELCASTRO and HARDY went to the residence of BENNIE BARONE where they hauled their share of the silver into his house and counted it out; that the silver was brought to BARONE's residence for the purpose that he had agreed to exchange it for currency for them inasmuch as HARDY was leaving for Tyler, Texas on the afternoon of November 3, 1950. It was agreed that BELCASTRO would give HARDY currency in exchange for his share of the silver and that BARONE would then give all of the currency obtained in exchange for the silver to BELCASTRO.

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[REDACTED]

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Upon being served with a subpoena duces tecum, can produce telephone records reflecting that [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Can also produce records reflecting that on the following [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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The following is the Identification record of BENNIE BARONE as reflected by the FBI Identification Division under FBI Number 500634:

Contributor of Fingerprints	Name and Number	Arrested or Received	Charge	Disposition
USM, Omaha, Nebr.	Joe Manzio	10-25-30	vio. N.P.A.	4-4-32 chg. dis
PD, Omaha, Nebr.	Bennie Barone #15856	10-29-31	reckless driving	12-2-31 30 das. in Co. Jail
SO, Council Bluffs, Iowa	Bennie Brown #5625	6-13-32	disorderly	\$25. fine suspended
USM, Omaha, Nebr.	Bennie Barone #1115	6-7-34	Dyer Act	3 yrs. prob.
PD, Omaha, Nebr.	Bennie Barone #15856	9-12-44	Investigation	
PD, Des Moines, Iowa	Bernard Barone #17167	9-28-46	Ill. Poss. Intox. Liquor	9-30-46 dism.
USM, Omaha, Nebr.	Bennie Barone #5327	1-24-51	rec & poss stolen money- stolen from an insured bank	pending

LEADS

OMAHA DIVISION

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At Omaha, Nebraska

Will interview [redacted] Douglas County Deputy Sheriff, RICHARD COLLINS, Sheriff, as to their recollection of the conversation had by them with BENNIE BARONE and PASQUALE JOSEPH BELCASTRO regarding money which BARONE had in his possession on or about November 6, 1950, and which he said was money that BELCASTRO had bet on candidate [redacted] who was running for Douglas County Sheriff.

Will check all records of the Paxton Hotel in attempt to ascertain the residence of [redacted] at the Paxton Hotel for approximately a week following the burglary of the Laurens State Bank November 3, 1950 and determine whether or not the records indicate the reservations were made by BENNIE BARONE.

Will interview [redacted], who operates a Texaco Service Station, 24th & Pierce Sts., for information concerning his relationship to BENNIE BARONE and as to whether he observed the transactions in which money was given by BARONE to BELCASTRO at his service station on or about November 6, 1950.

Will locate and interview [redacted] a prostitute who works at the Keen and Flatiron Hotels and who has associated for some time with BENNIE BARONE, as to any information she may have concerning the activities of subjects instant case.

Will interview PETE BONACCI, Lakeside Steak House, 2304 Lake Street, East Omaha, Nebraska, for information as to the present whereabouts of [redacted] it being known that she frequently frequents this establishment.

At Council Bluffs, Iowa

Will at the Council Bluffs Savings Bank report results of inquiry of all bank employees as to their recollection as to whether or not BARONE exchanged silver for currency on or about November 3-6, 1950.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Rosen *Ru*

FROM :  *in* ①

SUBJECT: KENNETH ALLEN KITTS, WAS, ET AL  
BANK ROBBERY  
ESCAPE AND RESCUE

DATE: April 19, 1951

Time of Call: 4:10 p.m.

SAC Dalton of the Omaha Division called and advised that they were endeavoring to develop several cases growing out of the main Kitts case. One of these cases is a harboring case and the other is based on a charge of receiving the proceeds of the bank robbery.

Dalton stated that one  an extremely rough character who had been involved in a variety of criminal activities was charged with harboring Kitts and that they have a statement from a girl in North Platt, Nebraska to the effect that she accompanied Hart and Slankard when they took Kitts on a getaway from North Platt.

Dalton also stated that they were endeavoring to conclude their investigation with regard to one Benny Barone, an Omaha thug and a contact for all the hoodlums passing through, and in this connection Belcastro has testified for the Government to the effect that Barone took several thousand dollars in silver which was stolen during the bank robbery and changed it into paper money for Kitts and retained a certain percentage for himself.

Dalton stated that thorough intelligent interviews are needed with Slankard who is presently in prison at Terre Haute and with Rancey Douglas Hardy who was convicted in the main Kitts case and is presently serving a twenty year sentence in Leavenworth.

Dalton stated that both *Slankard* ~~Belcastro~~ and Hardy are experienced criminals and that they know from experience that these men will not give information if they are interviewed by an agent with less than full knowledge of the case and of their respective background. He stated that Agent Jacobson who has done excellent work in the Kitts case, is familiar with all the details, and is also thoroughly familiar with the background of Belcastro and Hardy, is in his opinion the one man who would have a good chance of securing the needed information from these men. He asked authority to send Jacobson to handle these interviews.

I advised him that he should make appropriate arrangements with the agents in charge of the districts covering the institution and thereafter have Jacobson make the interviews.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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SA:mw

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